

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

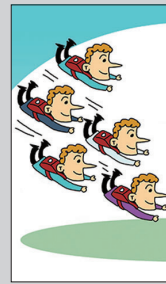
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Tumbling Sales
Have Baijiu
Makers Shaking

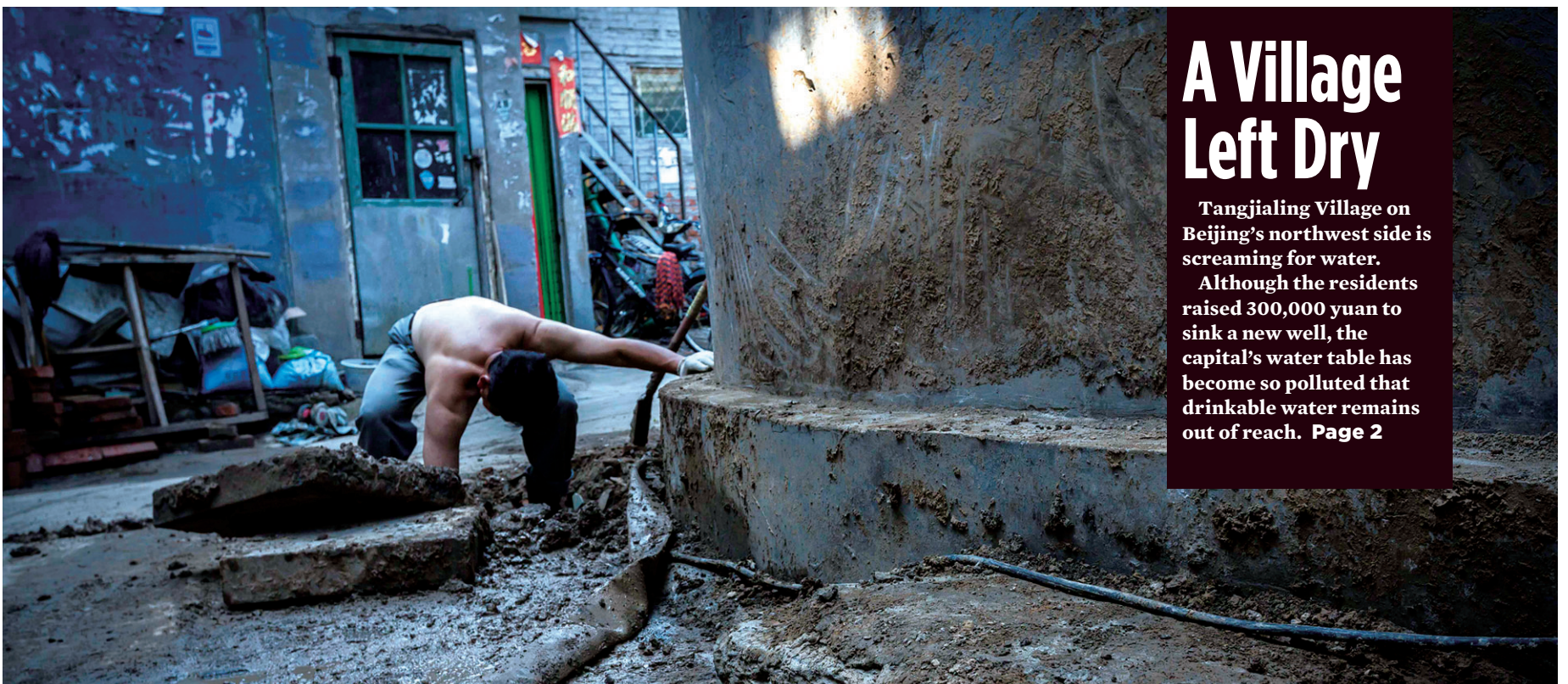
With corruption cut off, baijiu makers are being forced to find new ways to compete. **Page 4**

Scholarships
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Students Only

Jiangsu's costly plan to win foreign students is drawing heavy criticism. **Page 5**

Film Fest
Spreads
Dutch Culture

The second "One Touch" Festival is bringing 25 films to China. **Page 6**

A Village
Left Dry

Tangjialing Village on Beijing's northwest side is screaming for water.

Although the residents raised 300,000 yuan to sink a new well, the capital's water table has become so polluted that drinkable water remains out of reach. **Page 2**

Plagiarism Scandal
Ensnarers Peking U Again

BY LYNNE WANG

China's top university is catching heat after an article in the *Chinese Journal of Journalism and Communication* exposed an extreme case of plagiarism on August 17.

The article revealed how Yu Yanru's dissertation was almost entirely copied from a 1983 dissertation by scholar and teacher Nina Gelbart.

Yu was a Ph. D candidate in the History Department of Peking University when she submitted the paper. Today she is a scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The journal said it would lodge a formal complaint with the CASS to have Yu's position suspended for five years.

More than a month has passed since the announcement and Peking University remains tight-lipped about its plans – assuming any exist.

Peking University does not stand alone in the world of academic scandal.

Earlier this month, a postgraduate student named Liu Haiyang at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications was revealed to have copied his dissertation from an article by Zheng Jiuhui at the Dalian University of Technology. Even the title of Liu's article was the same.

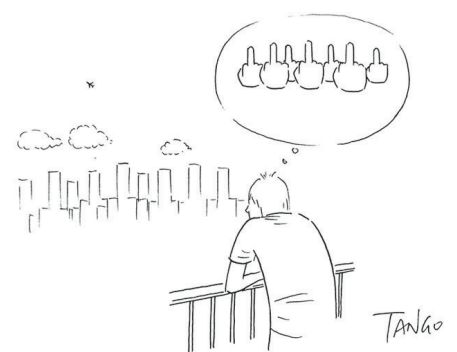
In spite of increased media scrutiny, academic dishonesty remains the norm at many Chinese schools.

"Academic plagiarism is actually shifting from the domain of undergraduates to senior researchers and professors. These incidents have severely harmed the reputation of Chinese academia," said Yang Dongping, an educator.

But penalties for cheats remain light. Degrees are rarely rejected even when obvious plagiarism is discovered.

Finding a way to clean up China's messy academic ecosystem may require every segment of Chinese society to pitch in, Yang said. ■

IMAGINE



Comics by Tango (tango2010)





WATERLESS Even after spending 300,000 to sink a new well, Tangjialing Village remains without water.

CFP Photo

Polluted Water Table Leaves Tangjialing Parched

BY ZHAO HONGYI

After raising 300,000 yuan to dig a new well, Tangjialing Village, a community in northwestern Beijing, remains without basic facilities due to its horrifically polluted water table.

The community, which primarily houses *beipiao* people – young graduates and migrant workers – has had a shortage of water and electricity for several months.

Without assistance from the local government, the residents pooled their money and sought permission from the Bureau of Water and Chengguan to hire a digging crew.

Most wells are sunk at a depth of 20 to 40 meters and cost 30,000 yuan. In Bei-

jing, clean water can only be found more than 150 meters below ground.

"It takes two to three days to dig a well less than 50 meters deep. When you want to reach 100 meters, it takes at least two weeks," said Wang Shouchang, the head of the digging team. Wang's team has been responsible for restoring water access to other Beijing communities like Sanjianfang, Guangzhuang and Shuangqiao.

But when the well was completed, residents were shocked to learn that water table was polluted even at that depth.

After a report from the Chengguan, city officials came to the village and confiscated Wang's digging equipment and warned the team and residents to never dig for water in the village again.

"Tangjialing is still considered an urban area, so residents must apply to the Geologic Exploration Bureau to obtain permission for any digs," said Sun Shangyi, a resident in Tangjialing. "The bureau said it would send out a team to see whether any water in our village is safe for drinking. Even if it is, people will have to register with the Water Bureau to use it."

Water shortages and bad wells are an increasingly common problem in the capital. Many communities have not applied with the bureau before digging and choose to supply their residents with poor or dangerous water, said Wang Chitao, a civilian in Tangjialing Community. ■



PICKPOCKETS Agents at the bus stations search for potential thieves.

CFP Photo

Plainclothes Agents Fight City's Pickpockets

BY YANG XIN

A new network of plain-clothes security agents are helping to clean up Beijing's public transportation network, long the darling of thieves and pickpockets.

Founded in September 2011, the recently expanded Beijing Undercover Investigation Team has helped detain more than 904 suspected pickpockets and recover 362 mobile phones during the first half of this year.

Xiao Li is part of one four-man patrol squad that begins work at 6 am. The men drive an ordinary car while scouting the bus station for loiterers and other suspicious individuals.

"Based on the number of incident reports this year, the bus station near Jiugong is the favorite of Beijing's pickpockets," Xiao Li says.

On this day, it's a man in a black T-shirt who catches their attention. The man is eyeing the handbags of other passengers and does not appear to be part of the morning traffic rush.

Yi Yi, another member of the group, gets out of the car and pretends to look at the station's signboard while sizing up the man. As the bus pulls up, the man scoots on board with the rest of the crowd.

Yiyi follows close behind and boards the bus. With Yi Yi on board, Xiao Li starts his car and begins tailing the bus.

At the tenth stop, the suspect finally gets off and Yi Yi follows and returns to his patrol car. A false alarm.

With the exception of Xiao Li, all the members of his theft prevention team are in their early 20s. The Beijing Undercover Investigation Team is attached to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau. The plain clothes inspection network is charged with safeguarding citizens and protecting their property in high-traffic areas.

Local police said the number of reported thefts have fallen 41 percent since expanding the network earlier this year. Incidents of pickpocketing on buses have fallen 47 percent. ■



Textbook Printer Claims the Ads in Books are a 'Service'

BY ZHAO HONGYI

Students in Zhaoqing, Guangdong province have a new addition to this year's middle school English textbooks: advertisements.

The new English textbooks for the 2014-2015 school year are packed full of short advertisements for educational tapes, pens, grammar books and electronic gadgets that promise to improve their study.

The books were supplied by Love Education Research Center, a private education agency. When asked about the ads, Zhao Yong, president of the center, said they are "a type of after-sale service."

"We want to tell the students that the advertised tools can assist them in

improving their studies," Zhao said.

Only 12 pages of the textbooks are devoted to advertisements. While most Chinese publishing houses are prohibited from putting commercial messages in textbooks, private companies are exempt.

Love Education Research Center was founded in 1992 and is the only authorized private printer of textbooks on the Chinese mainland.

Its English textbooks were approved by the Elementary Education Text Book Commission under the Ministry of Education in 2005.

In 2013, Jiangmen, Guangdong Province stopped using Love Education textbooks and switched to books from the Foreign Language Publishing House. However, the 184 middle schools in Zha-

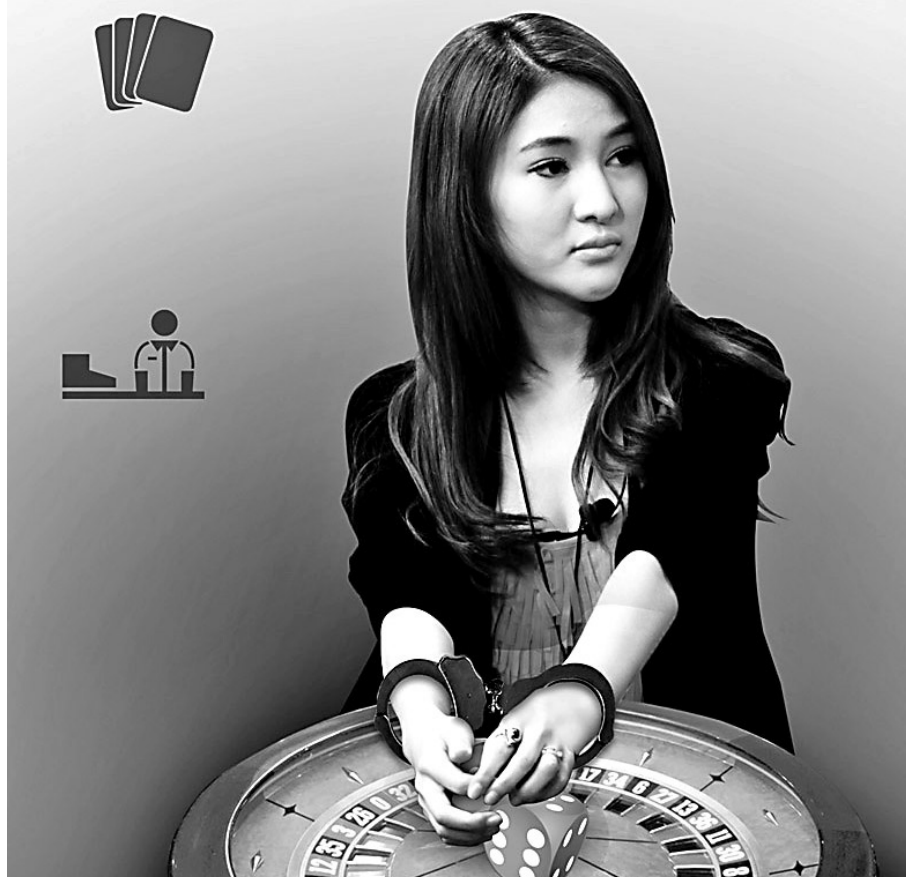
oqing were left behind.

"We've tried our best to pass the exams of the Text Book Commission in 2005, but many provinces are still eliminating our books from their lists," Zhao said.

A spokesman for the provincial education bureau said they have no authority to question books that have already been approved by the ministry.

According to a notice published by the Ministry of Education in 2011, publishing houses can lose their license and be fined more than 200,000 yuan for printing advertisements in textbooks.

"We did not know this clause. Otherwise, the publisher emphasized that it was an after sale service to the students," said Huang Gou, spokesman of education authority in Guangdong Province. ■



Sugar Daddy Trade Thriving in China

BY ZHAO HONGYI

With the independent documentary *Daddies Date Babies* set to premiere this December, the Internet has been abuzz with discussion over the sugar daddy phenomenon.

The film features Stephany Xu, a 23-year old American of Chinese descent who has been engaged in such a relationship to pay off her credit cards and stu-

dent loans. The man pays for Xu's dining and travels in exchange for companionship and sex.

But in China, the line between sugar babies and sex workers is very fine.

As with all modern evils, critics blame the sugar daddy relationship on China's sweeping economic reforms of the 1980s. The following decade of rapid change saw the casual relationships between young

women and powerful men quickly morph into big business.

In Shenzhen and Zhuhai, many women sought out businessmen and drivers from Hong Kong and Macau to pay their living costs in the big city in exchange for sexual favors.

Unlike more formal mistresses, women in sugar daddy relationships were typically allowed to have boyfriends on the side.

By the late 2000s, the trade had evolved into a profession.

No one better exemplifies China's sugar daddy trade than Guo Meimei, the "professional mistress" who found notoriety by lying about her employment and showing off pictures of her luxury vehicles and apparel.

The names of most of Guo's early men remain a mystery even after her arrest and conviction for running an illegal gambling ring.

But while American women in a sugar daddy relationships are fairly frank, Chinese women face pressure to conceal the monetary nature of their sexual relationship.

Although the business aspects may remain secret, most participants are quick to show off the money and fortune it brings.

In 2012, Wang Hongzhi, deputy chairman of the gaming guild Mysterious Dream, revealed the "price list" for numerous female models seeking sugar daddies. Most of the women on the list were still college students.

In mid-September, a Weibo user named Yu Siliang announced that Yan Jiehe, chairman of the board of directors for SuSun Group, has maintained sexual relationships with many of his female employees for years. Favored women were awarded with abnormally fast promotions.

"China does not have a clear definition of sex bribes. While the direct trade of sex for money is covered under prostitution, the trade of sex for gifts or power is not," said Mao Zhaohui, a professor at Renmin University of China. ■

(Yang Xin contributed to this story)

Execution Arrives for Street Singer Who Committed S&M Murders

BY YANG XIN

Zhou Youping, the infamous street performer who murdered his lovers after luring them with promises of extreme sex play, was executed on August 29.

His death draws to a close a string of murders that began in 2009.

During the third quarter of that year, Beijing police discovered six men who appeared to have been hanged during S&M sex play. The only common link was their lover: Zhou.

Police said Zhou began prowling for "sex slaves" on websites for gay men in September 2009. With his good looks and rebel attitude, he was never short on attention.

When his first date Feng Yu failed to disclose that he was infected with HIV, Zhou became furious and decided to trick him into engaging in extreme bondage.

A month later, Zhou found another victim surnamed Fang. "He asked me for 5,000 yuan the first time he met me. I felt irritated and decided to hang him as well," Zhou said.

Most of the victims were homosexual men who were married but



EXECUTION Zhou Youping was convicted of murdering six of his lovers.

Photo by Sina.com

concealed their orientation from their partners. Li Jianguo, one of the victims, had two children. Local media reported that his wife was unaware of his sexual preferences before the police inquiry.

On November 28, 2009, Zhou was arrested by police. He confessed to the murders while in police custody.

The 42-year-old street singer was originally from Xiang County, Hunan province.

After completing secondary school, Zhou was admitted to a vocational program.

"The whole village admired him. He was always good looking and had good grades," said a neighbor.

S&M sex play is increasingly popular in urban subculture, as evidenced by the offerings of Beijing's numerous sex shops. Zhou's case is one of the few where sex play was used as a tool for murder. ■

THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE
BY SU DERUI

Moralists Rage Over Students' Love Shack

The Internet has no shortage of condemnation for the latest high-rise structure beside the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan.

With 10 floors of hotels, the neon-lit building has already built a reputation as the top low-cost stopover for the school's frisky students.

But one has to wonder: with seven roommates and paper thin walls, where else are the students expected to do it?

(Tencent News)

Grads Green With Envy at Beggar's Pay

An unnamed beggar was photographed counting nearly 10,000 yuan in singles at a post office on Jianguomen Avenue earlier this month.

Post office staff said the man is a regular and wires home more than 10,000 yuan per month to support three family members who are attending university.

Staff at Beijing West Railway Station said the man is one of its regular pan handlers and that he has been working the area for several years.

With China's graduates earning less than ever this year, the viral news has many reconsidering their career choices.

(The Beijing News)

Husband of Cheating Wife Jailed for Privacy

A Taiwanese man who hired a private investigator to catch his cheating wife has been sentenced to three months in prison for invading her privacy.

After catching his wife sending flirtatious text messages to her doctor, the man, surnamed Jian, asked the investigator to place a hidden camera in the hospital's examination room.

The camera recorded the two having sex multiple times during the one week it was placed. Although Jian sued the pair for adultery, his wife counter-sued for invasion of privacy.

(Apple Daily)

Man Fined 30,000 Yuan for Deflowering

A Shanghai Pudong resident surnamed Li ended up paying more than he planned for his trip to Singapore with a woman surnamed Chen.

During the trip, Li told Chen he was still an eligible bachelor and the two began a sexual relationship. When Li broke it off three months later, Chen tracked him to his home where she learned that he had been married since January 2013.

Chen filed suit on March 26 and demanded 500,000 yuan and a written apology for "violating her virginity through deception."

The Pudong New Area People's Court awarded her 30,000 yuan in compensation and ordered Li to hand over an apology on September 17.

(Shanghai Daily)

Distillers Scramble for Strategy in the Face of Tumbling Profits

BY LYNNE WANG

The easy days seem to be over for China's formerly booming liquor industry. Numerous popular distillers are hemorrhaging money as officials' expense reports come under increased scrutiny.

As the most popular gift for bribes and the cornerstone of corrupt receptions, Chinese spirits were one of the first products to feel the burn of a central government crackdown that began at the end of 2012.

Golden Age is Over

China distilled 12.26 million tons of liquor in 2013 according to the National Bureau of Statistics. While that 7.05 percent gain year-on-year would be cause for celebration in most industries, it spelled doom for famous alcohol labels.

With 16 percent lower growth than the last decade's average, many top distillers have entered a period of free fall.

On August 27, popular spirit maker Wuliangye announced it had sold 11.7 billion yuan in

the last year and generated 4 billion yuan in profits: both of which represented a decrease of 24.9 percent and 30.9 percent year-on-year.

Jiuguijiu, another influential vendor, had an even more disappointing report. After losing 36 million yuan in 2013, its sales continued to plummet. By the end of the second quarter, the company was running a deficit of 44.4 million yuan – a decline of 260 percent.

But the anti-corruption campaign is only the most obvious cause of tumbling profits, said Qian Yuyang, a reporter for *Jinghua News*. A pricing strategy that made Chinese spirits the darling of government officials destroyed their primary consumer base, he said.

"The higher the prices were labeled, the more officials would buy," Qian said.

One need look no further than Maotai for a staggering example. In 2003, a bottle of Maotai distilled to 53 percent alcohol cost 218 yuan. The price soared to 308 yuan in 2006, 450 yuan in 2007 and finally 2,280 yuan in 2012 – a 945 percent increase.

But without a government eager to buy their overpriced goods, China's distillers are having to transform.

Since early 2013, high-end liquors have been slashing their prices to survive.

During this Mid-Autumn Festival, Wuliangye and Luzhoulaojiao engaged in a fierce price war. Wuliangye cut the price of its Wuliangye 1618 from 1,399 yuan per bottle to 809 yuan while Luzhoulaojiao cut the price of Guojiao 1573 from 1,589 yuan to 779 yuan.

Other major distillers such as Xifeng, Jiannanc-

hun and Yanghe followed suit.

"Given the already high profit margins on Chinese spirits, these price cuts are just a reflection of market rules. In order to fight for a limited market share, the giants are usually the first to change their pricing strategies," said Xiao Zhuqing, a market analyst.

But without an attempt to improve their products or better understand their customers, price cuts may be a race to the bottom.

Meet Baijiu 2.0

For distillers looking to experiment with new product strategies, no concept has been more popular than customization.

Customization itself is hardly innovative in the wine industry, let alone in most business. There have long been companies offering personalized wine bottles to celebrate weddings, baby showers and annual meetings. However, top label distillers represent a recent arrival.

Earlier this year, Maotai established a marketing firm to create and distribute tailored spirits. Using its website interface, consumers and organizations could place orders for bottles branded with corporate logos or photos. Customizers must meet the minimum order of 1 ton of spirits and pay 30 yuan for each personalized element.

"We aim to sell 1 billion yuan through these services this year, with 3 billion yuan

in 2015 and 5 billion yuan in 2016," said Yuan Renguo, CEO of Maotai.

Hengshui Laobaigan opened a similar customization department in February. Wuliangye also announced it would be offering custom bottles for China Railway Engineering Corp.

Other distillers have started to sell customized spirits through third-party e-commerce platforms. In July, Luzhoulaojiao announced a strategic partnership with Jiuxian.com, an emerging consumer-to-business site that gathers brands to pool marketing resources.

But industry insiders remain guarded in their optimism. "Personalization is a very narrow market. Its capacity is limited," said by Wan Xinggui, an industry observer.

"The success depends on price differentiation and brand scarcity. If providers fail to find the right niche, customization will be more buzzword than business model," Wan said.

Distillers are also hoping to reposition themselves as appealing to young drinkers rather than high-end consumers.

Earlier this year, the emerging label Jiang Xiaobai captured public attention. Labeling itself as "Qingchun Xiaojiao," a homonym for "small liquor for youth," the brand aimed to win young adults born in the 1980s and 1990s. Eschewing the conservative imagery and appeals to nationalism of other leading brands, Jiang Xiaobai utilized comic avatars and popular Internet slogans in its marketing.

The brand managed to generate considerable buzz on social media, and within several months Luzhoulaojiao, Songhe and Fenjiu all released similar products.

But the future of Qingchun Xiaojiao is hardly promising, according to industry insiders.

"Young Chinese drinkers have little interest in traditional spirits. They usually prefer beers, wines or cocktails when they meet with their friends," said by Lin Hua, the manager of a supermarket chain.

While the impressive advertising campaign may have inspired a number of one-off purchases, there is little chance of cultivating long-term consumers within that market segment, Lin said.

While these changes show that traditional distillers are open to trying new ideas, they may be woefully out of touch with the genuine demands of China's consumers.

Digital technologies have transformed consumers into "users" – occasionally even into producers. Learning to refocus on the consumer experience will determine the future of the Chinese liquor industry, *Xinhua* wrote in an editorial. ■



Photo by CFP

Critics Bemoan Jiangsu's Sky-High Scholarships for Foreign Students

BY LYNNE WANG

Jiangsu province has been taking heat for its new plan to become the nation's top destination for international students.

But it's not the goal that has commentators furious: it's the scholarships.

On August 13, the Education Department of Jiangsu Province announced it would offer scholarships of 50,000 to 94,000 yuan to foreign students each year. The plan aims to recruit more than 50,000 international students each year until 2020, when 5 percent of all post-graduate students in the province would be from abroad.

The plan, which analysts said would cost the government between 2.5 million and 4.5 million yuan, was criticized as being "over-generous" and offering international students "super-national treatment."

"When you compare it to the province's less impressive aid given to local students, the preferential scholarship seems kind of ironic. It almost comes off as a form of discrimination on the grounds of nationality," said by Yan Man, a journalist at *The Beijing News*.

Jiangsu educators said the huge financial estimates were not reliable and that the 94,000-yuan fellowship would only be awarded to Ph.D candidates in the sciences.

"Only 1.7 percent of foreign college students were able to obtain a provincial scholarship from 2010 to 2013. This year, the ratio will be limited to 2.4 percent," the Education Department of Jiangsu Province said on September 6.

While the department agreed the program may be costly, it said its funding would not exceed 14 million yuan.

Jiangsu province's scholarships are one of the first implementations of a ministry-level plan to boost international enrollment in Chinese education. Several provinces, including Jiangsu, were tapped as "trial areas."

But analysts say that excuse doesn't justify the department's zeal. Preferential budgets appear unlikely to bolster the competitive strength of Chinese schools or the long-term health of higher education.

Unequal Scholarships

Hefty scholarships that put local students at a disadvantage run counter to education equality, critics said.

"Despite using similar application mechanisms and financial sources, the amount of money applicants can receive is vastly different," Yan said.

The Ministry of Education's 2013 Report on Government's Subsidies for Chinese Students said the nation invested 57.4 billion yuan to subsidize the education of 31 million domestic students in 2013. Each student was offered 1,500 yuan.

By contrast, expats studying in trial areas stand to gain much more. In 2010, Beijing allocated 1.9 billion yuan to 15,000 foreign students: recipients were given an average of 12,000 yuan. In 2011, Jiangsu set aside 6 million yuan for its 265 international students: each was given 23,000 yuan.

"When you look at developed countries, their scholarship policies for college students do not have such obvious differences based on nationality," said by Gu Jun, an editor at *China Youth Daily*.

For example, the UK has

eight major scholarships which include the Chevening Scholarship and Newton International Fellowships. All are famous for their strict vetting procedure, intense competition and availability to all students. The most important criterion is the students' academic performance rather than his or her nationality.

"The only one that targets foreigners is the Overseas Research Scholarship," said Gao Yuan, a spokesperson for The British Council in China. "It only covers the difference between tuition fees in the UK and the student's home country."

Others say the new policies put impoverished local students at a disadvantage – especially given the recent round of tuition hikes at domestic universities.

Earlier this year, nine provinces decided to increase their college tuition fees an average of 16.4 percent. Subjects such as medicine saw a 76 percent increase in tuition costs.

"Students from poor families have to compete for a limited amount of scholarships. Some can obtain financial support from the government or social organizations, but many have to give up on their education and find a job," Xinhua wrote in an editorial.

"As many as 25 percent of all Chinese college students come from impoverished families. If the government puts foreign students ahead of local students with difficulties, the latter will feel disappointed – even resentful," said Yang Yan, a journalist at *Legal Daily*.

Misdirected Efforts

Indeed, the preferential scholarship for foreign students has brought doubt and condemnation – especially with how little attention has been given to local students' financial problems.

But supporters say it is essential

to speed up the internationalization of domestic schools and foster the long-term development of Chinese higher education.

"A strong body of foreign students is the basic requirement for schools that want to become internationally recognized," said Qiu Bin, an educator at Dongnan University.

Foreign students are also the best medium by which to export Chinese culture, which could in turn bring in more students.

"This is how Peking Opera and Suzhou Embroidery became famous around the world and it's why many foreigners who love Chinese culture choose to study here," said by Cheng Aimin, director of Overseas Education at Nanjing University.

International students who are financially supported by the Chinese government could also contribute to the Chinese education industry and local economy.

"The average expense of a foreign student is about 100,000 yuan per year, which means they are putting that money back into the economy even if they get it from the Chinese government," said Lin Yue, dean of international cooperation and communication in the Education Department of Jiangsu Province.

Still, Chinese higher education has a long way to go before it can really be "international." "The key is opening minds. In terms of scholarships, maintaining relative equality for all students is essential," said Wang Yiwei, a researcher of international affairs at Renmin University.

Cultivating better teachers and a stronger academic atmosphere are much more important, Wang said. These, not money, are the root causes of why many international students choose to study in China. ■

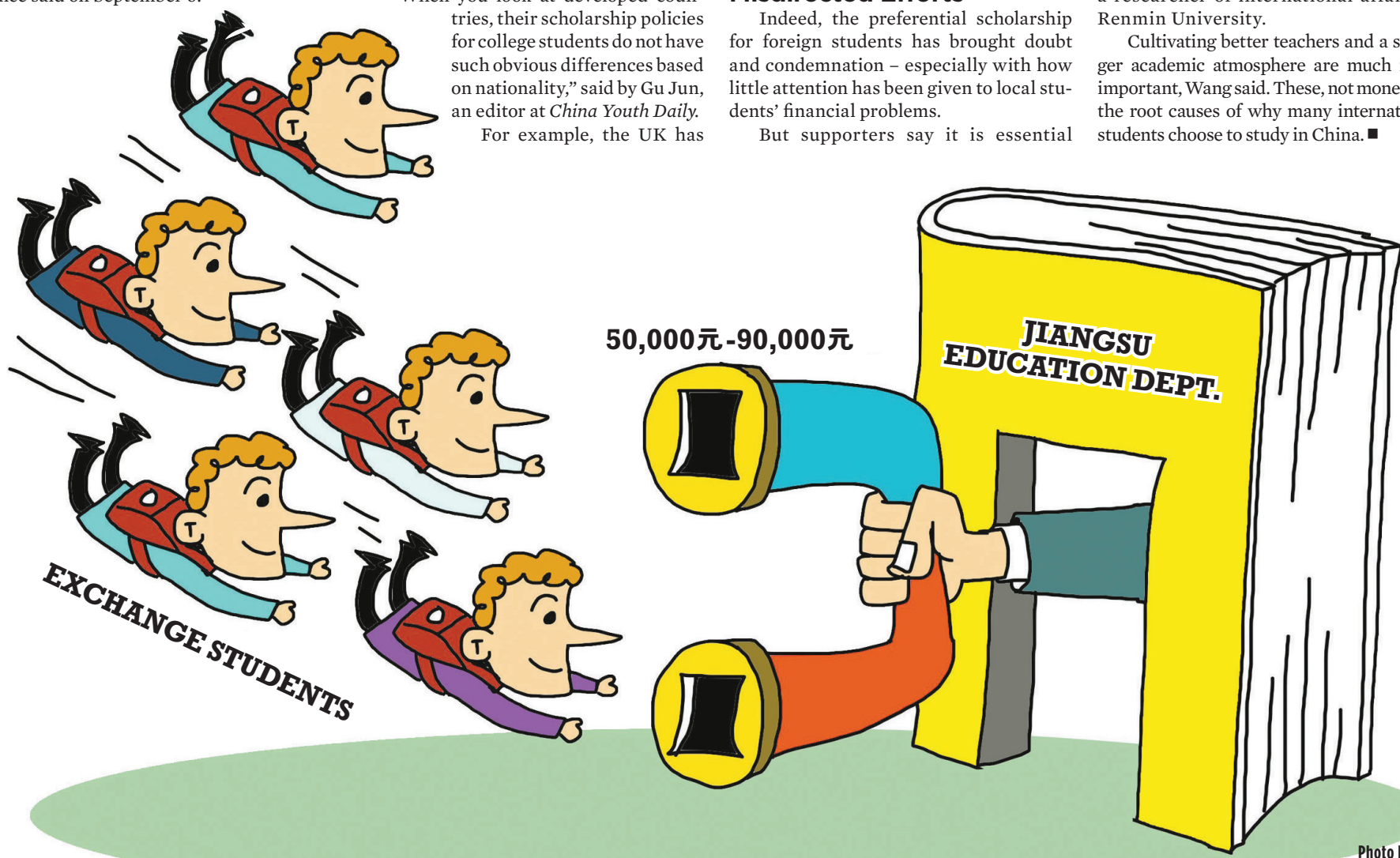


Photo by CFP



CONCERT Rhonda Larson and Ventus are touring China during the next few months.

Photo by Yang Xin

Grammy Winner Gives Concert for the Blind

BY YANG XIN

Grammy Award winner Rhonda Larson performed with her five-piece band "Ventus" for blind Chinese music lovers at the China Braille Library on September 10.

The show at the Braille Library, organized by the Embassy of the US, will be Larson's only charity performance during the flutist, composer and bandleader's 2014 China tour.

With Paul Halley on piano, Chris Rosser on guitar and Middle Eastern stringed

instruments, Eliot Wadopian on bass and percussionists Carolyn Koebel and River Guerguerian, Ventus is known for its supremely talented musicians.

Larson and Ventus defy traditional genre classifications. Their concerts resemble a musical journey leading listeners on a tour of beautiful sounds. From traditional Scottish and Finnish pieces to Native American melodies, each concert is a musical feast featuring the most outstanding tunes in the world.

Larson adapted several Han Dynasty

(206 BC-220 AD) pieces for the second half of the concert. Many of the listeners sang and clapped along with the familiar tunes.

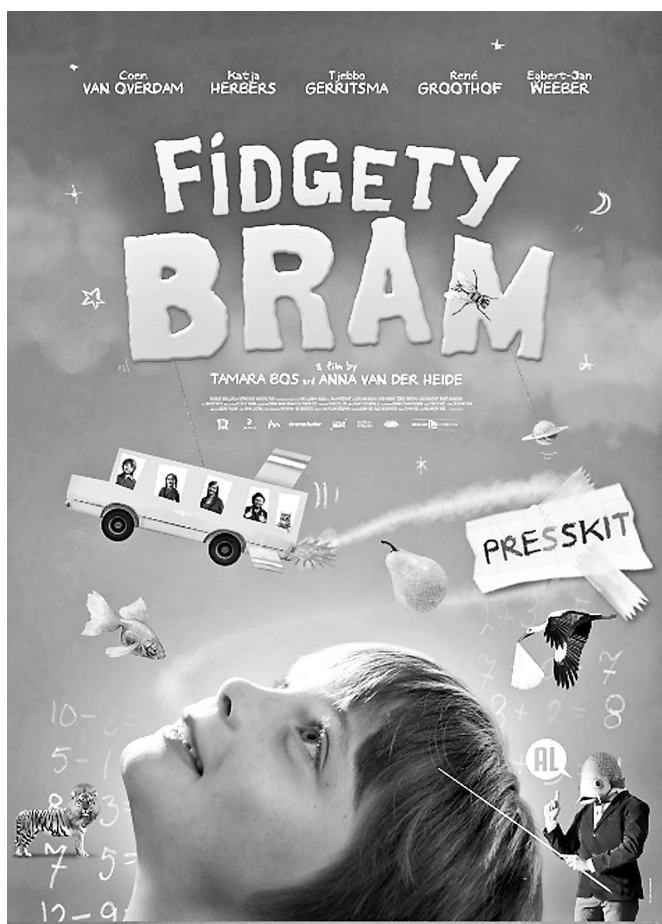
"Ventus means 'wind' in Latin. Wind starts nowhere and ends nowhere, and music has no label or genre boundaries but only inherent musical qualities of inspiration that celebrate the human spirit," Larson said, explaining the band's name.

Most of Larson's music is inspired by nature. During childhood, her "practice room" was a high mountain ridge outside the

family home in Bozeman, Montana, where the endless sky and breathtaking mountains cut through the soul.

"Blind people are no different from normal people in their hearing ability. They might even be more sensitive to our sounds. Music speaks to anyone who listens," Larson said.

During the next few months, Larson and her band will bring their music to 25 Chinese cities including Qingdao, Wuhan and Ningbo. ■



Film Fest Spreads Dutch Culture

BY YANG XIN

The second "One Touch" Netherlands Online Film Festival is bringing outstanding films and cultural works to Chinese viewers starting September 20.

Organized by the Netherlands Embassy, this year's One Touch will bring 25 films and documentaries to China – five more than last year. All will be freely viewable through Tencent Video, one of China's largest streaming video portals, for three months.

The online film festival includes feature films, children's films, documentaries and short animations showcasing Dutch subjects such as soccer, fishing and dance music.

Those familiar with Dutch film will find notable masterpieces by distinguished documentary directors such as Heddy Honigmann and Leonard Retel Helmrich included in this year's playlist.

Metal and Melancholy, directed by Honigmann, is an offbeat road movie probing into the real life of a Peruvian taxi driver in the early 1990s. The story is set against the backdrop of Peru's inflationary economy and government destabilized by corruption and Shining Path terrorism. *The New York Times* lauded it as "revealing and convincing," so the movie is not to be missed.

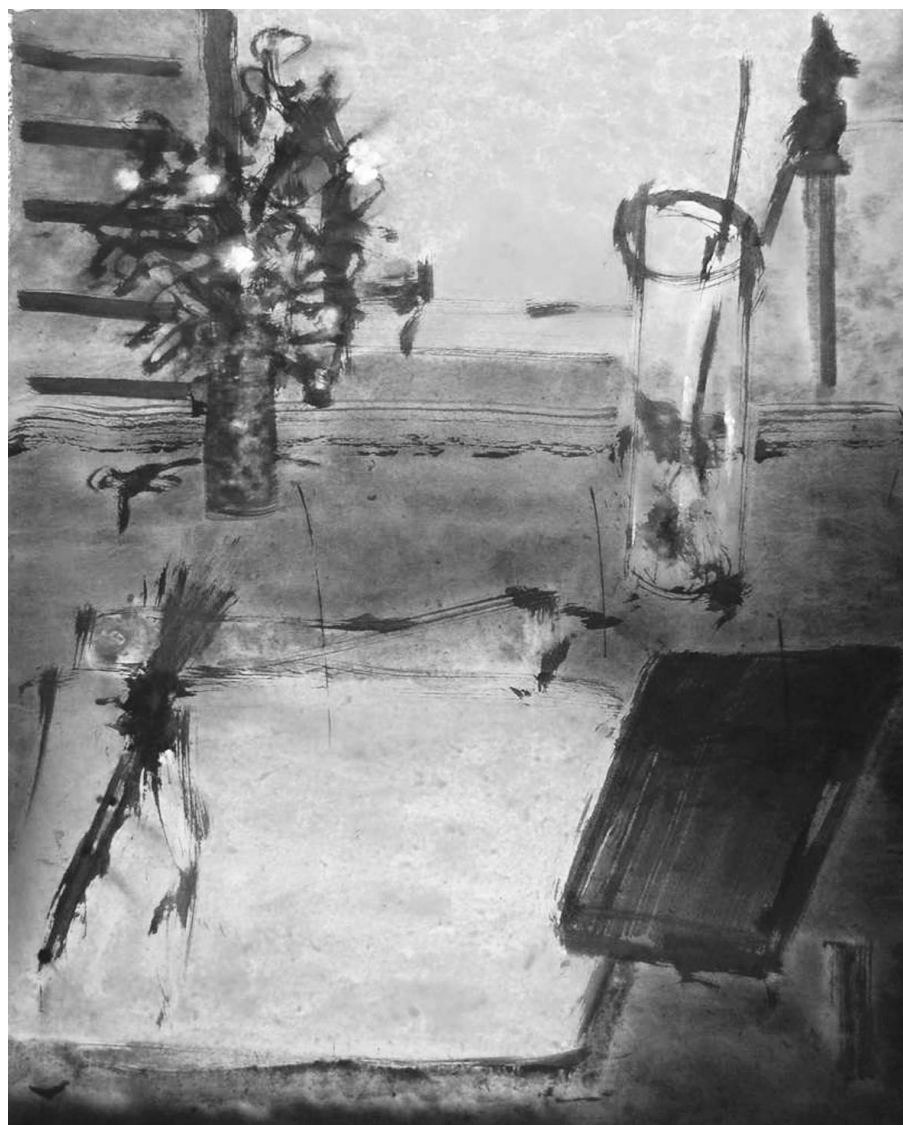
There are also several feature films that introduce Dutch social issues: realistic works centered on children and the family are a major force in Dutch film.

Half of the feature films presented on this film festival are children's films and two out of three short films are children's films. Even in the documentary unit, there are three concentrating on children. The focus on youth stands in amazing contrast to China's film industry, which tends to focus on late teens and adults.

Dutch cinema is internationally recognized for its openness, inclusiveness and creativity. Earlier this year, China and the Netherlands signed a ministerial level memorandum of understanding which made film a priority for cooperation. A film co-production agreement is currently underway.

"Dutch filmmakers have deep feelings about China. There were Dutch directors filming in China as early as 1930. We hope this online film festival will help Chinese viewers to learn more about Dutch film," said Pieter Fleury, director of the Holland National Film Fund.

More information and events related to One Touch can be found online at china.nlembassy.org and weibo.com/helandashi. ■



Photos by Instituto Cervantes

Spanish Ink Art Ties Together the Silk Road for Design Week

BY YANG XIN

As the guest city of Beijing Design Week 2014, Barcelona is bringing its distinctive art to China.

Instituto Cervantes, together with Institut Ramon Llull, is featuring the works of outstanding Barcelonan artist Perico Pastor through the end of this year. Titled "Xi'an-Barcelona-Beijing: Paper Paths, Rivers of Ink," the exhibition shows how cultural exchanges along the Silk Road shaped private life in European and Chinese cities.

The exhibition opened at Instituto Cervantes on September 24 with a live performance by traditional musician Zhao Jinyang and calligrapher Zhu Qingsheng.

Unlike many Spanish artists, Pastor focuses on cross-cultural creations. In this exhibition, Pastor displays his skill with Chinese ink to present the cities of Xi'an, Barcelona and Beijing in a united form.

Using paper, strokes, and sketches, Pastor shows the profound connections between such Silk Road locations as Xi'an, Samarcanda and Dunhuang, ending in a

group of small paintings that evoke a sense of Barcelona and the Mediterranean with objects such as rice, pasta, paper and gunpowder.

Born in 1953, Perico Pastor is an illustrator and artist who specializes in drawing scenes of daily life. His work has been featured in *Vogue*, *Village Voice* and *The New York Times*.

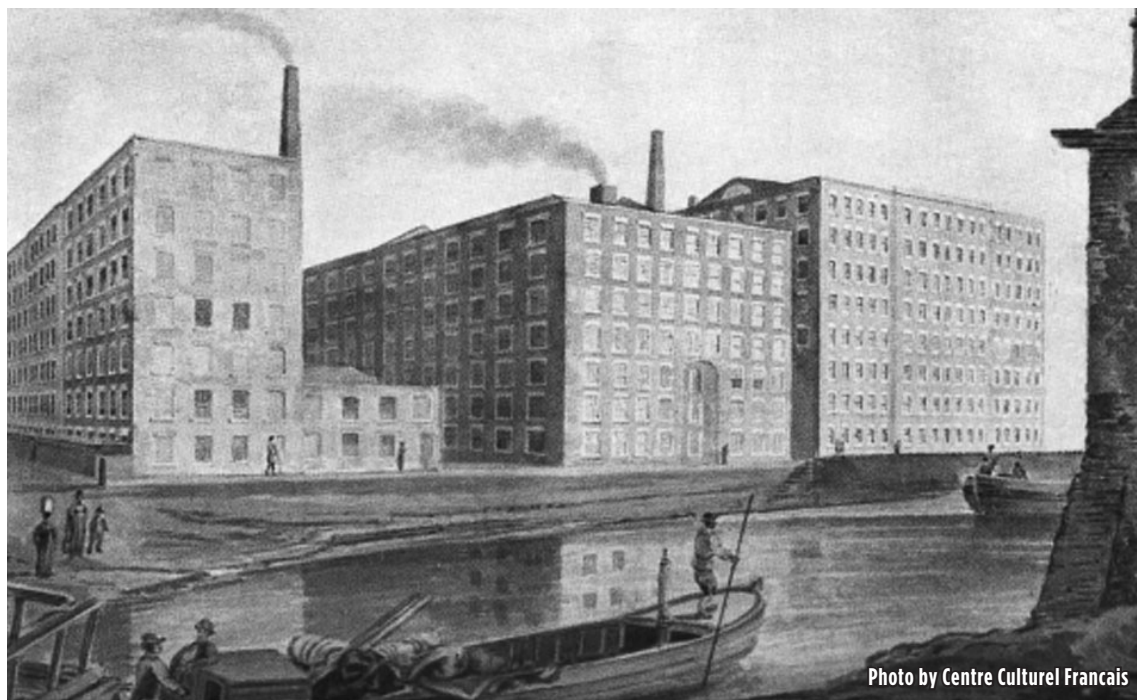
"Beijing Design Week is the most important project for Barcelona this year. During the week, Barcelona will display her innovativeness and creativity to the whole world

through activities and exhibitions. We also believe this project will strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Barcelona and Beijing," said Javier Trillas, mayor of Barcelona, at the press release.

Beijing Design Week 2014 begins today and ends October 3. It includes a spacious exhibition area themed "Barcelona, a Future Inspired by Design."

The Barcelona Pavilion, which follows London, Milan and Amsterdam as the week's Guest City, will be inaugurated on September 27. ■

Exhibition Reviews France's Century of Urbanization



BY YANG XIN

Presented by Centre Culturel Français, "Aftershock of Urbanization in the 19th Century" shows how sweeping urbanization trends laid the foundation for modern France.

The 19th century was an era of bloody social and industrial revolution in France. The rebellions gave way to unprecedented urbanization and the development of new economic and social patterns that shaped French life.

Urban life was transforming in every way during the 19th century. From professional activities to entertainment, dress and interior decoration, modern France's reputation for cultural advancement all stem from that period.

But rather than offer a collection of historical relics, the exhibition attempts to trace the origins of France's modern vitality. It's a reminder of how cultural heritage can be an engine of progress for all generations. ■

➤ Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
 ⌚ Through October 6
 💎 Free
 🌐 faguowenhua.com

Design Week Shines with Spanish Guests

Beijing International Design Week begins today! Through October 3, the capital is featuring exhibits related to the year's theme of "design capital-wisdom city-ecological civilization."

The festivities, which coincide with the nation's 65th anniversary, showcase achievements in city construction, industry development and civil improvement.

The week is a chance to show off more than 300 exhibitions and related events organized by more than 30 countries and regions. More than 100 designers will visit to attend themed discussions and brainstorming sessions.

The opening ceremony is being held today at the Chinese Millennium Monument. Inspired by the simple style of previous weeks, the event will consist of creative ideas and functions, forming a global creative gathering and design platform.

Six designs have been shortlisted for this year's Design Week awards. The designs include the Grand Canal Protection Design, China's First City in Modern History – Nantong, Jiangsu, the 2015 Milan World Expo China Pavilion, the Shenzhen Overseas Chinese Creative Culture Park, Harbin Qunli New Town Wetlands and the Beijing Dongcheng Hutong Creative Factory.

The winner of the 2014 Classic Award will be announced tonight after the opening ceremony.

As this year's guest city, Barcelona is sending key representatives from its cultural and creative industries to participate in Design Week events. One of the visiting exhibits, the *Barcelona Knight*, is designed by Antigua i Barbuda. The horse will be touring 798 Art Area, Sanlitun Taikoo Square and the Chinese Mil-

lennium Monument throughout the Week.

On the local side of things, Design for Civil Welfare invites 12 interior decorators to redesign small apart-

ments for young tenants in the districts of Fengtai and Chaoyang. The design blueprints, which cost less than 1,000 yuan to realize, were published on the official Beijing Design Week website last week.

Design Cat, a design shop on Tmall.com, is showing off its hundreds of lovely cats in another special exhibition during the week.

In early 2013, Beijing Design Week was named as one of the top 40 creative design events worldwide by prominent newspapers and magazines. It is the only event that brings so many global designers together and is the largest design event in Asia.

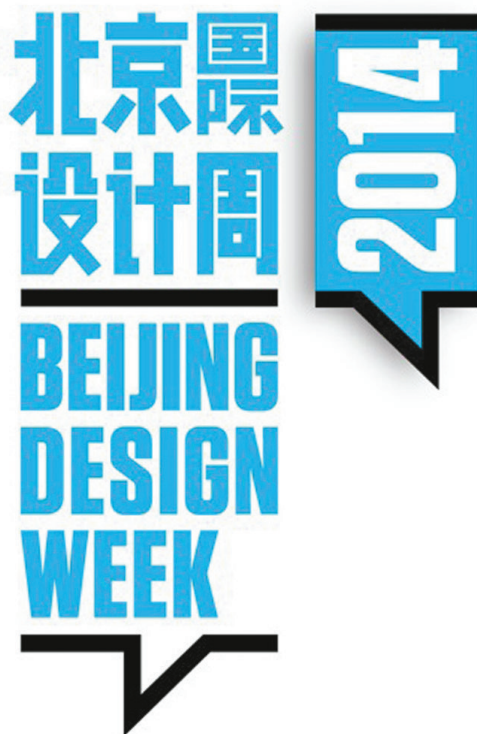
After the week ends, the organizing committee will join Fira Barcelona, a design company, to work on smart city designs for Beijing. "Smart cities" are city plans that consider how to harmonize transportation with the economic ecosystem and residences.

The organizing committee is distributing its Design Passport this year at 751 DPark, Sanlitun Taikoo Square and the Chinese Millennium Monument. Visitors can collect a passport to further participate in this year's Beijing Design Week events.

Several new awards are being added this year to focus on Web platform design, cutting edge creations from across the Taiwan Straits and Beijing's best creative businesses. The awards are intended to recognize top talents and help young designers find work or start their own business.

Beijing Design Week is held every year by the Beijing municipal government, the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Culture. ■

(By Zhao Hongyi)



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